

STRIKE LEADER SAYS BURLESON PLAYS POLITICS

Giving Up Wires in Part, He Asserts, Was to Save Democrats From Blame.

GOVERNMENT MUST PAY Percy Thomas Assails Postmaster-General in Attack on Western Unions Heads

Direct responsibility for the nationwide telegraphers' strike, which is called for Wednesday morning, was placed at the door of Postmaster-General Burleson yesterday by officials of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, who met in this city to plan the details of the walkout.

Percy Thomas, deputy international president of the union, emphatically declared that the only reason Mr. Burleson returned the control of the wires to the Western Union and other companies at the time he did was to have the strike fought by privately owned companies instead of the United States Government. He added that inasmuch as the financial arrangement with the Western Union continues to be the same as when it was governmentally controlled, the Government will pay for the strike, Mr. Thomas said.

The reason why Mr. Burleson returned control of the wires to Mr. Carlton, president of the Western Union, was because he wanted a strike would take place and the wires to be taken under the Western Union, so that the Democratic Administration would not be held responsible. As a matter of fact, the 8 per cent. is still paid the Western Union under guarantee of the financial arrangement entered into when the Government took over the wires. If the entire Western Union shut down, the company would still get its 8 per cent. from the Government. Burleson is hand in glove with the Carlton-Vail combination, and now they may fight labor as hard as they want to at the expense of the Government.

The Wire Operating Board is abolished, and of course the men operating that board have gone back to their remunerative jobs; but the Wire Control Board, composed of Burleson's friends, is not abolished.

Burleson's Course Criticized.

"Government operation never had a chance. Men absolutely opposed to public ownership of telegraph and telephone systems were put in charge of these industries by a man professing to be in Government ownership. Government control of the wires could have been pushed forward to practical, successful operation, and would have been easily to the interests of the people of our country, but for those who opposed it, who were singularly placed in control, for at the very birth of its opportunity it was thrown among the money lenders. Government messages and messages to the general public and newspaper dispatches were delayed even to the limit of the day by the operating officials, and the public, which has no time to investigate causes was critical of the results of the so-called Government control. There has been a day of it, the war began or when the telegraph and telephone officials had paid good wages to their employees and given them good treatment that excellent service would have been furnished to the people by the companies. Union officials purpose watching the Western Union men make money out of business, if they are able to handle business at all during the strike, for the Government had not brought the Western Union from the indictment of last year for sustaining messages, i.e., sending telegrams from one point to another by train through the medium of messengers.

Mr. Thomas corroborated the statement made in The Sun that more than 100 operators had been discharged Saturday when it was ascertained by the chief operator that they would strike when the walkout was ordered. He said the number was 135. As a result of the dismissal, he said, a Government circuit remained open for several hours and the business of the public generally was permitted to suffer. He said a number of operators were sent to Southern points to take the place of those who went on strike and that this delayed delivery of messages.

Had Declared They Would Strike.

Newcomb Carlton, president of the Western Union, pointed out yesterday that the men and women who were dismissed had been let go not because they were members of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, but because they declared their intention to join the strike. Mr. Thomas replied that this was but one of many violations of Mr. Burleson's many pledges of protection to union men.

Answering Mr. Carlton's statement that there are only 710 members of the union in the United States, Mr. Thomas declared there are more than that number in Mr. Carlton's main office. He would not state how many there were in the Eastern section, over which he is president.

At the meeting of telegraphers yesterday afternoon it was decided to assist the sympathy of the Typographical Union and other labor organizations which have to do with telegraphers' work, to protest against the employment of non-union labor.

The strike order sent out by Mr. Thomas yesterday affects managers, supervisors, clerks, operators, mechanics, linemen and inside and outside wiremen.

The demands are: "The right to belong to a labor union without restriction, collective bargaining through trade unions, and not through associations organized by the company to defeat the aims of the workers; reinstatement of all workers discharged in recent times for legitimate trade union activities; increases in pay sufficient to meet increased cost of living since 1915; rules governing working conditions whereby the rights of the workers will be defined and justice to them guaranteed."

KONENKAMP MAKES SELF-DEFENCE PLEA

Accuses Burleson of Not Preventing Men's Dismissals.

CHICAGO, June 8.—Reports of discharge of union operators by the Western Union Telegraph Company following the call issued last night for a nationwide strike on Wednesday of telegraph and telephone employees had been received from all parts of the country. A. J. Konenkamp, international president of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, said today. He arrived from East St. Louis and addressed a meeting of union men in the afternoon. He said he expected 70,000 workers would be affected by the strike. "I have received reports that the Western Union has discharged 150 of our men in New York, a number in Chicago, St. Louis, Denver and other cities," he said.

"To the men at the meeting I stated that we had to strike in self-defense because of the tactics of Postmaster-General Burleson in permitting our people to be discharged right and left without giving any protection and giving us no chance for a wage adjustment or arranging for collective bargaining. I told them that if we did not strike there was absolutely no chance of success and there was nothing left to do but strike."

Mr. Konenkamp said everywhere the members are assuring him they will do all they can to make the strike effective. Rumors that the time for the strike had been advanced to tomorrow were untrue, he said, and there was no thought of changing the call as issued yesterday.

CARRANZA KIN TO BE AMBASSADOR

Washington Hears Gen. Aguilar Will Be Envoy to United States.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE SUN. WASHINGTON, June 8.—According to information reaching here, Gen. Candido Aguilar, Carranza's son-in-law, is eventually to take charge of the Mexican Embassy in the United States, relieving Ignacio Bonillas.

This plan has been coming to a head for two months, it is understood, without the State Department being apprised of it. The matter is a little later to the State Department officially, but privately it is a matter of amusements to officials there. Aguilar is one of the type of Mexicans who is fitted least for a diplomatic post, according to those who know him and know of him and his record. Prior to the Madero revolution and during part of the Madero regime Aguilar was a hostler on an estate in Vera Cruz, having charge of some blooded horses and a number of cows.

Soon after this he became an officer in the Madero forces, rising to the rank of Major, and since his marriage to the daughter of Carranza, the rank of General has been given to Aguilar, who has been in charge of the Vera Cruz district lately.

Two explanations are suggested here for Aguilar being given the Mexican mission to the United States. One is that the failure of Ambassador Bonillas to secure permission for the State Department for the transport of Carranzista troops through American territory in order to try to offset the rapid campaign of the Villa element in northern Mexico has angered the "First Chief."

The only other explanation advanced today is that Aguilar may have proved a source of embarrassment to the Carranza Government, but this is not given a great deal of credence because if it were true, Carranza would have dismissed him long ago. Carranza is certainly would be of little account as a diplomatic envoy to the United States. Reports reaching here through confidential sources are to the effect that the Villa forces under the active leadership of Gen. Felipe Angeles are in control of considerable territory in northern Mexico and that an important series of military operations may be looked for beginning probably within a week. It was not disclosed, however, whether Angeles will extend his operations toward Mexico City and the Carranzista strongholds or will seek to establish Villista control of the border.

It is not denied that all of the territory about Torreón and Chihuahua is now under control of Angeles and his men as was reported in Mexican dispatches several days ago.

The War Department late to-night had received no message from the Commanding General of the Southern Department, to whom was referred the request from Gov. Hobbs of Texas for permission to mobilize two brigades of State cavalry to protect the border.

May Patrol Border.

Members of the Texas delegation in Congress were of the opinion that the Governor had in mind an eventual patrol of the border, but nothing immediate and pressing despite the wording of his telegram.

It is known that it is a part of the Villa-Angeles campaign to convince the American authorities that Villa had nothing to do with the Columbus raid or any of the border depredations commonly attributed to Villa bands. As recently related in The Sun, Villa is willing to stand trial in the United States on this charge and prove his complete innocence.

Because of this desire to convince the American Government of the intentions of Villa, and his followers toward all foreigners, and Americans in particular, it is believed here that an effort will be made to seize control of the entire border to demonstrate practically this fact.

WOOD LEADS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Poll Made by Republican Chairman

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE SUN. CHARLESTON, W. Va., June 8.—Major-General Leonard Wood, in the opinion of the fifty-eight Republican county committee chairmen in West Virginia, would receive more votes in this State than any other candidate mentioned for the Republican nomination for President in 1920. They replied to this query:

"How many voters, to your personal knowledge, favor Major-General Wood as the Republican candidate for President? How many favor Senator Warren G. Harding of Ohio? How many favor Representative Simon D. Pess of Ohio? How many favor Charles E. Hughes of New York? Are there others favored in your county? If so, who?"

The committeemen gave Wood, 750 votes; Hughes, 338; Harding, 220; Pess, 21; Gen. Pershing, 60; Senator Philander C. Knox, 3; former President Taft, 7; and Senator Howard B. Sutherland of West Virginia, 1 vote.

TAR VICTIM DEAD IN CHAINS.

Naval Officer's Uniform Adds to Mystery in England.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN FROM THE LONDON TIMES SERVICE. Copyright, 1919; all rights reserved.

LONDON, June 8.—According to the Weekly Dispatch, the body of a man in rude condition was found yesterday chained by the neck to a tree near Cambridge.

At the feet of the man, who had been maltreated, was found a naval officer's uniform in a bundle. He had been tarred and feathered. The police are investigating.

PLAN FINISH FIGHT IN WINNIPEG STRIKE

Employers Reject Mediation Board Plan Agreed to by Metal Workers.

UNIONS TIGHTEN FRONT Citizens' Committee Determined to Crush Present Central Labor Council.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE SUN. WINNIPEG, Man., June 8.—Indications point to a fight to the finish in the general strike. The plan of settlement proposed by the trustees' mediation board has been agreed to by the metal workers, but, according to Mayor Grey, the employers have decided not to accept it. The employers demand an open shop with final decision of disputes by a commission.

The citizens' committee of 10,000 is determined to crush the strike if it takes all summer. It realizes that Winnipeg has been set back at least one year industrially by this strike, that \$20,000,000 in building has gone past recall, and that the only satisfaction in sight for all the trouble and expense the city, province and committee have been put to is in quelling this movement by every means, including the use of the military force.

Make Far Reaching Plans. No persons but those in touch with the situation realize the determination of the committee to carry out its plans. All private business has been given up. The employers have decided to use their energies and money are being devoted to this one object. They will not brook any outside interference, and they are already making plans through long Sam by the nose. We cannot disguise from ourselves that it is from accusations such as these that national quarrels begin.

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SWARTHMORE ARMS TO PROTECT PALMER

Quaker Collegians Make Sure Bombers Are Barred.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE SUN. PHILADELPHIA, June 8.—Quaker Swarthmore armed itself today to protect United States Attorney-General A. Mitchell Palmer, a member of the college and baccalaureate speaker at the service held this morning in the college.

Somewhere at the college conceived the idea that the college, or whoever is responsible for bomb throwing, might try to take advantage of a peaceful Sunday morning celebration to make an attempt on the life of the attorney-general, whose home in Washington was boobyed several days ago.

Accordingly every man in the college who had seen was searched, and they are guarded by scores—donned his uniform and became a member of the guard of honor. At the same time scores of others, all equipped with half trigger automatic revolvers, volunteered themselves for service.

All these precautions were in addition to those taken by the various branches of the Government secret service. Not content with the scrutiny given by the Government sleuths to all visitors, the college authorities assigned men to watch every entrance to the college building grounds of the institution. No man or woman not identified was permitted in the place.

LLOYD GEORGE FOES MAKE WILSON CLUB

Continued from First Page.

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STATE INSURANCE LAX, SAYS CONNOR

Investigator Asks Governor to Have Complete Inquiry Into Bureau.

RATES LOW, POLICIES FEW "Wyncoop Service" Said to Have Means of Inside Information as to Risks.

ALBANY, June 8.—Severe criticism of the management of the State Insurance Fund by the State Industrial Commission is contained in a report to Gov. Smith, made public to-night, by Jeremiah F. Connor, appointed by the executive to investigate the affairs of the commission.